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REMARKS

This Response is being submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on September 18, 2006.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1, 3-6, 8-14, 16-19 and 21-30 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by the Wright, et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0016010) publication. Applicant has reviewed the Wright, et al. publication and the Examiner's arguments, and believes that Wright, et al. does not teach or suggest the features of applicant's independent claims 1, 13, 14 and 26-30, and their respective dependent claims. Accordingly, Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claim 1 recites a communication system having a server for providing a Web E-mail service to a Web browser of a client, wherein the server comprises management means for managing a secret key for decrypting an encrypted E-mail message addressed to a user's mail address, the E-mail message being encrypted by a public key corresponding to the user's mail address, wherein the secret key corresponding to the user's mail address for decrypting the encrypted E-mail message is not managed by the Web browser of the client; web encryption communication means for establishing a Web encryption communication with the Web browser of the client, and communicating with the Web browser of the client by the Web encryption communication established by the web encryption communication means; authentication means for executing authentication of a use allowance of the secret key managed by the management means to the Web browser of the client when the Web browser of the client requests to decrypt the encrypted E-mail message while the server communicates with the client by the established Web encryption communication, decrypting

means for making a decrypted message by decrypting the encrypted E-mail message using the secret key managed by the management means, the secret key corresponding to the user's mail address, in the case where the use allowance of the secret key managed by the management means is authenticated by the authentication means; and transmission control means for controlling to transmit the decrypted E-mail message decrypted by the decrypting means to the client through the Web encryption communication established by the web encryption communication means. Applicant's independent claims 13, 14, 26-30 recite similar features.

The constructions recited in applicant's independent claims 1, 13-14 and 26-30, and their respective dependent claims, are not taught or suggested by the cited Wright, et al. publication. In particular, the Wright, et al. publication does not teach or suggest making a decrypted message by decrypting the encrypted E-mail message using the secret key managed by the management means and corresponding to the user's mail address, in a case where use of allowance of the secret key is authenticated, and controlling to transmit the decrypted E-mail message, decrypted by the decrypting means, to the client, through the web encryption communication. The Examiner has argued that paragraphs [0020], [0058], [0060] and [0064] of Wright, et al. disclose such features and that decryption of a message or document can be done at a third party, such as a server as an alternative.

Applicant has reviewed the portions of Wright, et al. cited by the Examiner and believes that there is no mention or suggestion in these portions, or anywhere else in Wright, et al., of decrypting the encrypted message on the server side using the secret key which is managed by the management means and is not managed by the Web browser of the client, and transmitting the decrypted message to the client side through the Web encryption communication. Instead, Wright, et al. discloses in paragraph [0020] that in a decryption process, "the server returns

the...encrypted document to the client computer, along with the user's encrypted private key", and that if the user enters a correct key-phrase, the "client-side Java engine decrypts the user's private key, then uses this private key to decrypt the data file." Paragraph [0064] of Wright, et al. further teaches that if a user chooses to view an encrypted file stored on the server, the user's encrypted private key, the hash of the encrypted document, and the encrypted document are all downloaded to the user's local machine, and that if the user enters a correct key-phrase, the use's local machine, i.e. client, decrypts the encrypted document using the downloaded private key, hash and the encrypted document. See also paragraphs [0072] and [0075].

Thus, the Wright, et al. publication clearly teaches that documents are transmitted between the server and the client in an encrypted condition and that decryption of such encrypted documents or messages is performed locally on the client's machine. The Wright, et al. publication is therefore completely silent as to making a decrypted message or document using the decrypting means on the server side and thereafter transmitting the decrypted message or document to the client through the web encryption communication.

Accordingly, applicant's independent claims 1, 13, 14 and 26-30, each of which recites making a decrypted message by decrypting the E-mail message using the secret key managed by the management means or in the management step, the secret key corresponding to the user's mail address, in the case where the use allowance of the secret key is authenticated, and controlling to transmit the decrypted E-mail message decrypted by the decrypting means or in the decrypting step to the client through the Web encryption communication, and their respective dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the Wright, et al. publication.

In view of the above, applicant's independent claims 1, 13, 14 and 26-30, and their respective dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record, and are

therefore submitted as patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration of these claims is respectfully requested.

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